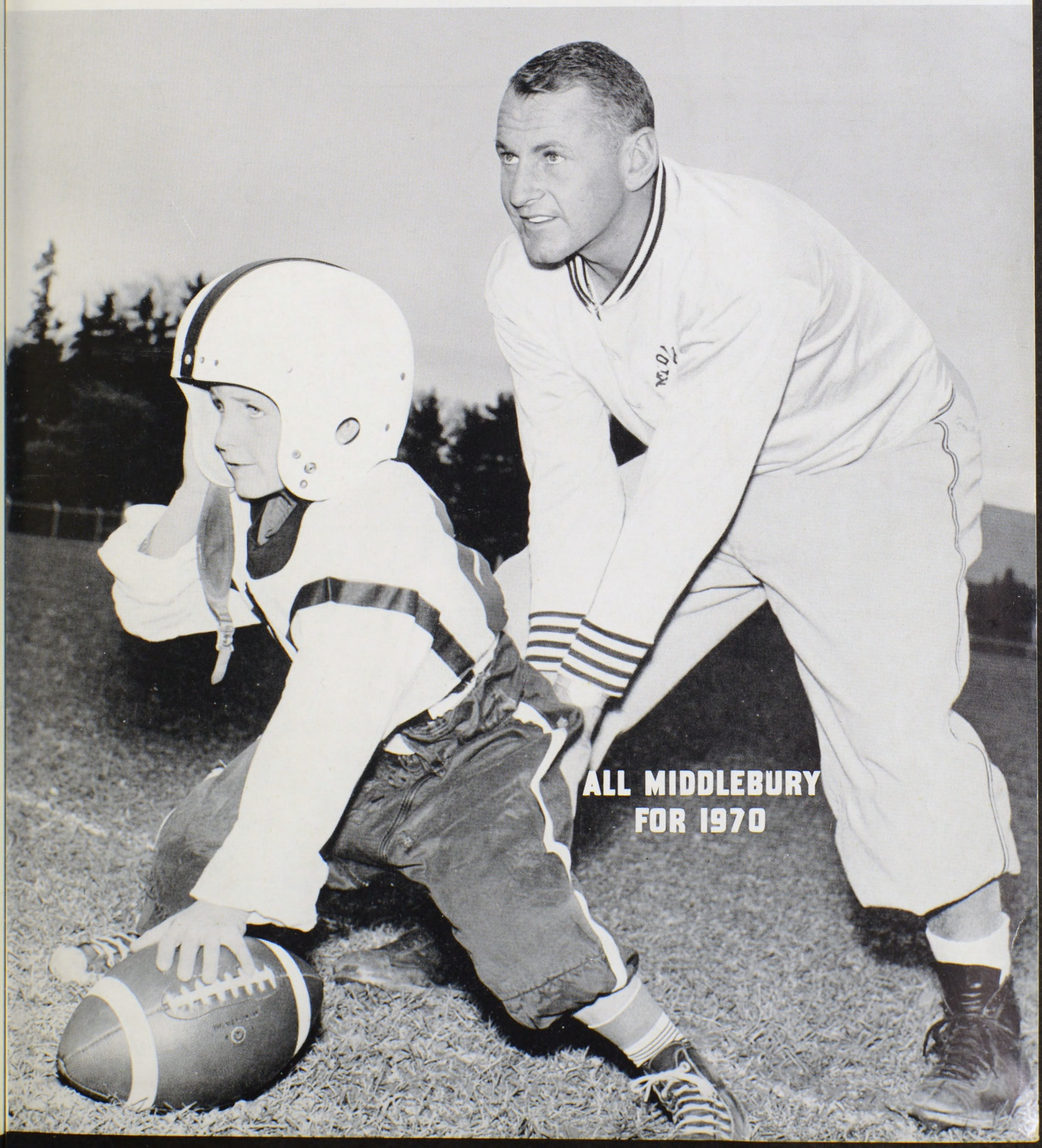
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

Your Family and Middlebury

5416

FALL
1955

ENT BY THE COLLEGE TO ALL MIDDLEBURY PARENTS



MIDDLEBURY in the News

Student, Faculty Efforts Help Realize Greenhouse for Development Program

STUDENT AND FACULTY initiative is largely responsible for the addition of a greenhouse to the College's Development Program.

For some time faculty members and students in the Division of the Natural Sciences have felt the need for a greenhouse for the use of the Botany classes. Over the years, students have been unable to complete, or even undertake, many experiments in their classes because of the lack of adequate plants.

Realizing the benefit that a greenhouse would be to both students and faculty, a group of students got together to see if something could be done. After meetings with department officials and College administrative officers plans were formulated.

A student committee was organized and through its efforts was able to raise about $300 toward the construction of the greenhouse. A "Greenhouse Weekend" was proposed, and late in the spring about 40 people, faculty, students and staff members, gathered at the west end of Warner Science to begin the excavation.

Work parties were held several times during the following weeks and as the greenhouse project reached a more complicated stage of construction, the work parties gave way to a contractor.

The new greenhouse runs westerly from Warner Science and connects to the main building through a head house. The all-glass greenhouse is 14 feet by 31 feet long.

It contains three rows of benches and is heated through an automatic hot water system.

The head house is 10 feet wide and runs along the west side of Warner Science for a distance of 32 feet. It is faced with marble so that it conforms to the lines of the existing structure.

Divided into two parts, the head house provides space for animal storage and for a potting shed. Previously, the many small animals that are used for study were kept in a small makeshift cabinet. All three areas of the head house and the greenhouse are separately heated.

The heating of the greenhouse is automatically controlled to compensate for the sunny warm days and the cold Vermont winter nights. The potting shed and the animal storage room both have separate heating controls.

The greenhouse is now in the final stages of construction and is expected to be completed within the next few weeks. The cost of construction is expected to be about $12,000.

Dr. Charles L. Lyon, '18, head of the Botany Department at Dartmouth College helped greatly in the planning of the greenhouse. Through his efforts the greenhouse will be stocked upon its completion.

Howard E. Woodin, Instructor of Biology and under whose guidance the student committee worked, said that the new greenhouse opens up a whole new avenue of study for Middlebury students. He said that with the completion of the greenhouse it will be possible for the instructors to change the content of many of the upperclass courses.

He noted that in addition to having samples of plants available for demonstration, the greenhouse will also make possible a more intensive study of plant physiology.

"We have never been able to do as much in plant physiology as we would like," Mr. Woodin said, "now the greenhouse makes possible a lot more intensive study in that field."

In commenting upon the value of the new building, Mr. Woodin placed emphasis on two aspects. First, he noted the great spirit of cooperation between students, faculty and administration that the project generated in its early stages, and second, was the possibility of future extended study of plant physiology, an important, but previously somewhat neglected phase.

Plans Being Completed For College's New Drama And Speech Center

With the plans for a new Drama and Speech Center approaching completion, another major step in the Development Program of the College nears realization.

As the NEWS LETTER goes to press, work is progressing on plans for construction to start during the current college year.

A consultant on college theaters has been engaged by the College and during the past few weeks has been meeting with the architects, McKim, Mead and White of New York, college officials and Erie T. Volkert, Associate Professor of Drama.

The consultant, Professor Edward Cole of Yale University, is a noted authority on college theaters and workshops. He was the consultant for the recently completed theater at Bowdoin College, and for the Denison College theater among many others. He also was engaged by the group which recently built the theater at Stratford, Conn.

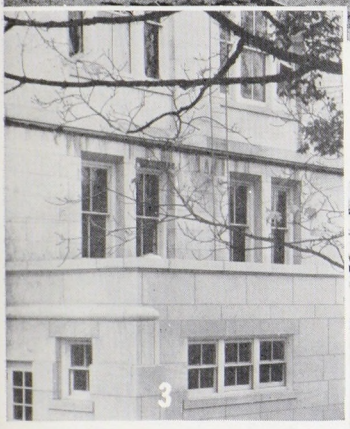
Professor Cole has visited the campus to review the site and the tentative plans for the new Middlebury College Center with President Stratton, Professor Volkert and others. Several details remain to be worked out on the plans and when the final detailed plans have been approved contractors' bids for construction will be invited.

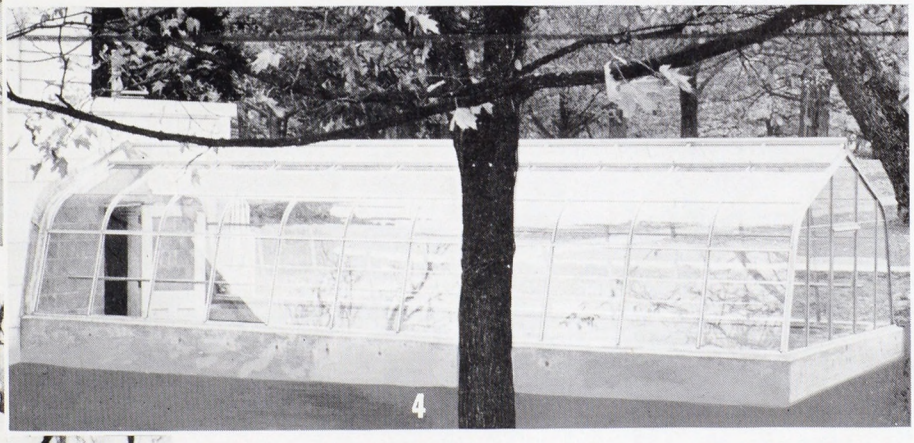
The architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White was engaged by the College during the summer to prepare plans for the new center which will be named for the late, Charles Baker Wright, long-time Middlebury professor. The New York company, like Professor Cole, has a background of work on college theaters. In addition, the firm has designed several Middlebury buildings.

ON THE COVER

"Never too young to learn," says **Robert R. Sheehan, '44,** Assistant Varsity Football Coach and Ski Team Coach, as he coaches five year old **Robert R. Sheehan, Jr.,** in the fine points of football.

Coach Sheehan, who has led Middlebury ski teams to many championships during the past nine years, has been appointed Coach of the United States (Alpine) Ski Team. He will depart later this year for Cortina, Italy, site of the 1956 Winter Olympics. During the absence of **Coach Sheehan,** the Middlebury ski team will be coach by **Robert P. Beattie, '55.**





LATEST CAMPUS ADDITION is the new greenhouse and its connecting head house which adjoin Warner Science Picture no. 5 shows President Samuel S. Stratton and Dr. Harold B. Hitchcock, Associate Professor of Biology, breaking ground for the greenhouse last spring. The preliminary digging was done by a work party of students and faculty (no. 1). Robert DeLisser '55, and Lawrence Dietter, '55, (no. 6) were part of the work crew of about 40 people which cleared away the sod and started the foundation excavation. Scotty Greer, '58, a varsity basketball player, tries his hand with a shovel in picture no. 2 as another member of the volunteer work party. No. 4 shows the completed greenhouse on the west side of Warner while a close-up view of the head house is seen in no. 3.

DURING THE LONG HISTORY of Middlebury College, men and women students have eaten their meals in separate dining halls. This year an experiment is being conducted by the College in coed dining, and is experiencing great success as each Thursday evening 50 men and 50 women of the Freshman Class gather for dinner. The Thursday coed dinners alternate between the men's and women's dining halls. The pictures above were taken at Gifford Hall recently at one of the coed dinners. From the pictures both men and women seem to be enjoying themselves. At left center, a group waits the dinner bell at the dining hall entrance, while congenial and pleasant atmosphere prevails in the other pictures as the freshman men and women whole-heartly take part in the experiment. Dean of Women Elizabeth B. Kelly says that the experiment in coed dining has met with great favor with the students. According to Dean Kelly "the atmosphere was a little strained at first, but has become easier with each meeting. The behaviour of both groups is excellent, and it helps make the whole dining hour more pleasant."

with our FACULTY

By *Professor* John G. Bowker, *Dean of the Faculty*

NEW ENTHUSIASMS and fresh viewpoints are brought to the Campus each fall by new faculty members as well as by the eager, spirited freshmen. It is among my happy privileges to welcome these teachers to Middlebury. Our rotation of faculty has averaged but 8% in recent years as compared with the recommendation of the American Council of Education that "about 10% each year would appear the optimum for smaller colleges and universities." Actually, we have fourteen new full-time faculty members this year but only seven are replacements for those who have resigned. Four represent a net addition to the teaching staff, two are substituting for those on leave, and one is carrying Dr. Harris Thurber's load while he is Acting Dean of Men.

Mr. Joseph Ablow has joined Professor Healy's staff as Instructor in Fine Arts. A graduate of Bennington College, he was awarded his Master's Degree by Harvard University last June. Prior to his graduate work at Harvard, he had taught at the Boston Museum School for two years and had traveled extensively in Europe. On one occasion Mr. Ablow spent seven months painting in Paris. His paintings have been exhibited at the University of Pennsylvania, at the Baltimore Museum, at Brandeis University and the Boston Arts Festival (1952, 1953, 1955.) His work is shown by the Boris Mirski Galleries in Boston.

Mr. Rene R. Beauchesne, one of our new Instructors in Political Science, comes to us from Syracuse University and Merrimack College. He is married and has a son three months old.

Mr. John H. Clagett, a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, has been appointed Instructor in English. Dr. Clagett did his work for the PH.D. in American Studies at Yale University. For the past three years he has served as Third Secretary and Vice Consul in the United States Foreign Service at Oslo, Norway. Having spent ten years in the United States Navy, he retired as Lieutenant Commander in 1946. In addition to short stories which have appeared in several national magazines he has published three novels, *Cradle of the Sun* (1952), *Buckskin Cavalier* (1954), and *Captain Whitecap* (1955), all published by Crown Publishers. Dr. and Mrs. Clagett have two children, Marjorie Douglas, eight, and Randi Anne, five.

Miss Ursula Ellerman is substituting for Dr. Neuse as Instructor in German during the first semester. Dr. Ellerman holds the Ph.D. degree from the University of Berlin, Germany, and has worked as a journalist and translator. Since coming to America she has spent three semesters at Columbia University.

Miss Marie Feldhusen comes to us from Southern Illinois University where she served as Visiting Professor of Home Economics last year. She is replacing Miss Lucy Wall, who was obliged to resign during April because of illness. Miss Feldhusen is a graduate of the College of Idaho and holds the A. M. Degree from Columbia University. She has taught clothing and textiles at several colleges in the South and Mid-West.

Madamoiselle Mireille Grandjean has joined our faculty as Lecturer in French. Mlle Grandjean is a graduate of Saint Catherine's College in St. Paul, Minnesota, and holds the Licence ès Lettres and Agrégée Degrees from the Universities at Grenoble and Lyon, France. In [*Continued on page* 8]

New faculty members are: (left to right) *First row*—Mr. James Wilson, Mr. Clagett, Mlle Grandjean, Miss Harrington, Mrs. Osorio, Mrs. Marshall, Miss Montgomery. In the second row are: Mr. Ablow, Mr. Martz, Mr. Grant, Mr. Beauchesne, Mr. Wolfe, Mr. George Wilson, Miss Feldhusen.

New Faces — 1955

The Women . . .

By Barbara A. Wells,
Director of Admissions for Women

The title of the 1955 edition of the freshman photo-directory which was distributed to each new student on the first day of Freshman Week is appropriate here. By what channels these "new faces" come to be a part of Middlebury is important to Alumni-ae since their influence, more than any other single factor, seems to direct prospective students toward the College. We must continue to keep you well-informed about admissions so you will be better able to recommend Middlebury to young people who need and want this type of college environment.

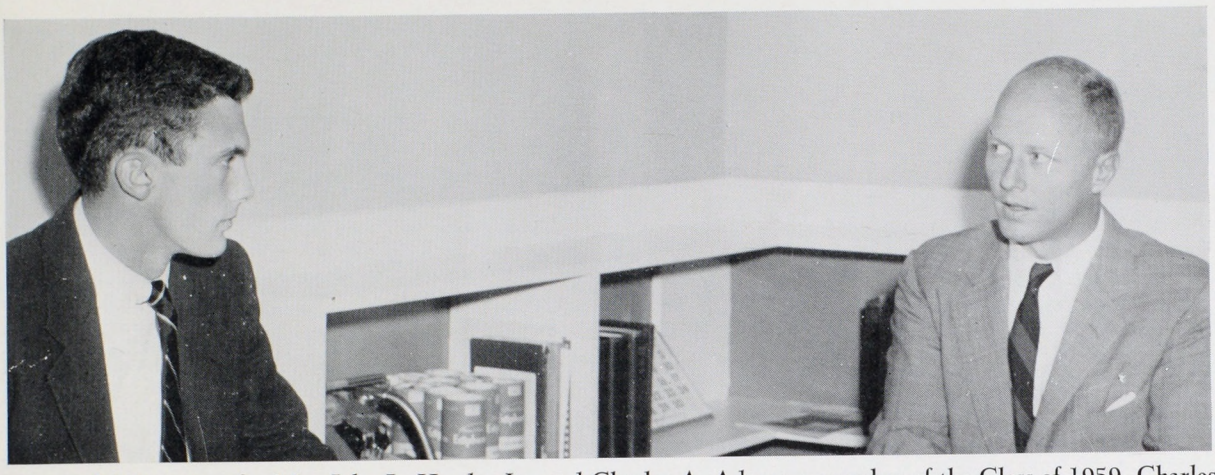
The 141 women of the Class of 1959 come from 21 states, the District of Columbia, and 4 foreign countries. They represent 122 different schools, 102 freshman women coming from 88 public schools, and 39 from 34 independent or private schools. Stated in another way, approximately 72% completed their college preparatory work in public schools, and 28% in private schools. The ages of the women at the time of matriculation in September ranged from 16 years and six months to 19 years and six months. Of the group, 25 are closely related to Alumni and this number includes 12 Alumni daughters.

The geographical distribution of the entering class of women is interesting. Of the 141 in the group, 42 (29.8%) are from New England; 72 (51.2%) from the Middle Atlantic States; 5 (3.5%) from the South; 12 (8.5%) from the Middle West; 5 (3.5%) from the Far West; and 5 (3.5%) from foreign countries.

Just how many high school juniors and seniors consider Middlebury seriously when in the process of selecting the several colleges to which they finally apply is difficult to guess. From June 1, 1954 to June 1, 1955 the office of Admissions for Women alone mailed out 3,020 catalogues to girls in preparatory schools in response to requests for literature about the College. Over 1800 received application blanks. During the same interval, 530 girls and their parents made a personal visit to Middlebury for an interview at the Admissions Office and a tour of the campus. Countless others stop on weekends or come to visit students for special occasions. Figures taken from the annual records of the Office show a steady increase in both of the above categories.

That Middlebury has acquired the reputation of being one of the hardest colleges in New England for a girl to enter is well known to the admissions staff. This has come about virtually within the last eight years. Just what has happened to bring about this situation should be known to every graduate of the College. The worst crisis came just after World War II when for several years the entering classes of women were sharply reduced to make room for returning veterans and former men students whose college training had been interrupted. The number of applications of women took a marked jump, too, with the result that the competition for admission became unbelievably keen. The high percentage of refusals due to lack of space created a false impression that top candidates were not "good enough" for Middlebury. The quickly-earned reputation for being "hard-to-get-into" did influence a drop in the number of applications, and the increased dormitory space provided by the new Battell Hall has [*Continued on page* 8]

Miss Barbara A. Wells, Director of Admissions for Women, and two members of the Freshman Class. They are: Carolyn M. Thrasher, daughter of Charles E. Thrasher, '32, and Mrs. Margaret Smith Thrasher, '34; and, (right) Irene M. Yeomans, daughter of George E. Yeomans, '33.



Director of Admissions for Men John L. Handy, Jr., and Charles A. Adams, a member of the Class of 1959. Charles is the son of Charles O. Adams, '27, grandson of Charles A. Adams, '95 and Mrs. Bertha Brainerd Adams, '95 and great-grandson of Ezra Brainerd, '64, former president of Middlebury.

The Men . . .

By JOHN L. HANDY, JR.,
Director of Admissions for Men

As this article is being written 220 freshman men are wondering where (or who) Gifford is, being told by the Director of Admissions and Dean of Freshmen to work hard and stay out of trouble, wondering whether one should introduce himself to those girls over there or if he should join something instead in order to meet those girls, writing names, addresses, religious preference, next to kin etc. on yellow and blue cards, being told to join the Mountain Club, writing the first letter home asking for money, being told by proctors to "shape up," and otherwise carrying on the normal business of adjusting to college life.

We of the Men's Admissions Office, having lived with this new class for a full year, have a kind of family feeling for it, and like any parents, we are very proud of its character and promise. Statistics, for what they are worth, seem to bear us out. About one-half of the class ranked in the top quarter of their secondary school classes and another third ranked in the second quarter. Their scholastic aptitude scores average between 500 and 550. Approximately 150 of them were class officers in secondary school, and about 50 were class presidents. Ten freshmen recently became a part of the college records by playing in the first football game of the season against Wesleyan (we lost 14–0).

Members of this year's freshman class come from 18 different states and five foreign countries. These students represent a total of 160 different schools with 115 men coming to Middlebury from 99 public schools and 100 from 61 independent or private schools. In other words, about 53.5% completed college preparatory work in public schools and 46.5% in private schools. Ages of freshmen at time of registration ranged from 16 years and 10 months to 23 years and nine months. Of the members of the Class of 1959, 38 men are closely related to Alumni and this number includes 13 Alumni sons. It is also important to note the geographical distribution of the Freshman Class: 92 men or 42.8% of the Class come from New England; 104 (48.3%) from the Middle Atlantic States; two (.9%) from the South; nine (4.3%) from the Middle West; three (1.4%) Far West and five (2.3% from foreign countries).

These statistics, of course, don't begin to tell the whole story. They don't tell of the mistakes we have made nor of those fine boys we have taken who are not "leaders" in the accepted sense but who will nevertheless make valuable contributions to the College and benefit fully from what the College has to give.

In the process of forming this class, Gordon Perine, '49, and I travelled about 20,000 miles, going as far south as Washington, D. C., as far west as St. Paul, Minnesota, and visiting nearly 400 schools. We considered approximately 775 applications, and accepted about 430 boys, 220 of whom finally came. We gave out $11,000 in College Scholarships, another $4000 in Waiters' Jobs, and got a summer hotel job for one boy who could not have made the grade on the scholarship grant alone. We should like [*Continued on page 8*]

THE NEW FACULTY

[*Continued from page 5*]

addition, she has studied in England and has taught in France for three years.

Mr. Charles S. Grant is our new Instructor in History. A Dartmouth A. B., he holds a graduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania and has done further work at Columbia University. Mr. Grant comes to us from Kent School in Connecticut. For a number of years he served as a Washington Commercial Consultant. During the second World War he was a captain in the A.A.F., serving as Navigator in the Far Eastern Area. He has published articles in the Mississippi Valley Historical Review and the New England Quarterly. A member of Delta Kappa Epsilon, he has two children, Katherine, 11, and Charles Jr., 7.

Mrs. Dorothea B. Marshall has been appointed Instructor in Physical Education for Women. Mrs. Marshall is the wife of Stuart A. Marshall, principal of the Middlebury High School. She attended Arnold College and the University of New Hampshire, holding her B. S. and M. E. degrees from the latter. She has been an Instructor at Stoneleigh Junior College, Spaulding High School at Rochester, New Hampshire, and at the University of New Hampshire.

Mr. William J. Martz has joined our English Department with Dr. Clagett. He is a graduate of the University of Rochester with a Master's Degree from Northwestern and considerable additional study at Yale. He has enjoyed a year of study abroad at the University of Cologne. Mr. Martz is married and a member of Theta Chi.

Miss Sarah S. Montgomery is Instructor in Economics. A Phi Beta Kappa at Vassar, she earned her Master's Degree at Columbia and has studied more recently at the University of Wisconsin where she was a Teaching Assistant in Economics. She has served as Market Analyst for Ford International, New York City.

Mrs. Maria Luisa Osorio is substituting for Professor Rose Martin as Lecturer in Spanish. She holds a Master's Degree from the University of Kentucky and her Ph.D. from Universidad de la Habana. Following Instructorships at Columbia and Western Reserve University, she has served Rutgers University as Assistant Professor for eight years.

Mr. George W. Wilson has replaced Mr. Edward Le Clair in the Economics Department. He holds degrees from Carleton College, Ottawa, and the University of Kentucky and is a Cornell Ph.D. Dr. Wilson is a Canadian, has taught at Carleton College and has been employed as Economist with the Department of Labour and the Board of Transport Commissioners at Ottawa. He is married and a member of Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society.

Mr. James Wilson has replaced Mr. John Wheeler in the Political Science Department. He, also, is a graduate of the University of Rochester and has done graduate work and taught at Syracuse University. A member of Delta Upsilon, Mr. Wilson is married and has two daughters, Cynthia Louise, aged 3, and Rachel Mary, six months.

Mr. Alvin W. Wolfe has been added as Instructor in Sociology. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Nebraska, he has practically completed his graduate work at Northwestern University. He spent the year 1952–53 in the Belgian Congo doing ethnographic research on the Ngombe Tribe, and the following year studied at the University of Louvain in Belgium. Mr. Wolfe is married and has a baby daughter, Charlotte Marie.

THE WOMEN

[*Continued from page 6*]

also eased the situation somewhat. That the competition is still extremely keen, however, is shown by the current figures on selection. There were a few more than 600 women applicants for admission this September, and these candidates represented over 400 public and private schools.

One of the most thorny problems to be solved in the Admissions Office is just how many girls to accept. Because all girls must live in dormitories for the full four years, the number of beds available for freshmen determines the number which can be accommodated. The actual number varies slightly from year to year depending on withdrawals from the three upper classes. Once we know how many new students we want, we try to guess how many applicants to accept. The guess was quite accurate this year; there are neither too many nor too few to fill the dormitories. We anticipated that 54% of those accepted would actually enter—and they did!

A sincere and honest attempt is made to evaluate each applicant's suitability for admission on the basis of all available information about her. No one aspect of her credentials is considered a deciding factor in her acceptance or refusal. We do look very closely for evidences of intellectual curiosity and self-motivation. The latter is most important for success in college and at the same time the most difficult characteristic to appraise. Among the things any admissions officer would like to find in his "Christmas stocking" is some sort of a fool-proof test on the order of the College Boards that would take the guess-work out of assessing this one attribute! Academic strength is important in a year when a high percentage of applicants with outstanding scholastic records makes the competition keener. This is largely determined by the calibre of the candidates and not by a hard-and-fast standard set by the College. However, a top scholar must have the personal qualifications which will enable her to fit into a small college community like ours to make her inclusion in the group of positive value.

THE MEN

[*Continued from page 7*]

to have more of these jobs available for incoming freshmen, and will welcome any suggestions as to how we can line them up.

Like all college admissions officers we are interested in attracting an increasing number of academically "optimum" boys—boys, that is, who are clearly capable of doing honors work at Middlebury. As nearly as we can judge, the "optimum boy" has College Boards above 550 (that is, in the top quarter of the nation) a consistent academic record which shows no failures and few grades below the college certifying level, special talents and interest which are actively pursued, and an effective personality. Gordon Perine and I feel that, during the next few years, we will be able to attract more of these boys and will come closer to the mythical "ideal class."

Thanks to Stanley V. Wright, '17, Alumni Secretary and my predecessor, we have become known by a great many schools, so many that we are increasingly able to limit admissions to those boys whom we consider capable of outstanding work at Middlebury. Thanks to studies of student failure and success at Middlebury, made by us and by faculty, we are getting a better and better idea of where to draw the line in evaluating candidates for admission.